

The MERCHANT of VENICE



The Rude Mechanicals present
William Shakespeare's

The MERCHANT
of VENICE

www.rudemechanicals.com

Directed by Caitlin Clare Williams

January 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26, 2013

Greenbelt Arts Center

www.rudemechanicals.com/merchant

CAST

Shylock: William Cassidy
Antonio: B. Harrington Moors
Bassanio: Devon Tully
Gratiano: Michael J. Dombroski
Portia: Meredith Coyle
Jessica: Jacqueline Chenault
Nerissa: Erin MacDonald
Lorenzo: Kyle McGruther
Salerio: Elise Berg
Salanio: Gary Wynn
Morocco: Brandon William Love
Arragon: Joe Roberts
Gobbo/Stephana: Katie Wanschura
Launcelot: Joel Lorenzetti
Tubal/Duke: Brian Binney

CREW:

Director: Caitlin Clare Williams
Assistant Director, Set & Light Designer:
Patrick Mullen
Stage Manager: Leanne Dinverno
Producer & Sound Designer: Donald Cook
Costumer: Katie Wanschura
Prop Manager: Elise Berg
Photographer: Jay Henry

Director's note:

Baltimore in the 1960's was one of the biggest port cities in the US, which attracted a large immigrant population and inevitably made the city a hot-bed of racial and religious tension. It was no secret that even though the Holocaust was twenty years prior, Jews were still considered contemptible and treated as second-class citizens. Add to that the Civil Rights Movement and ever-present racial discrimination, and these aspects of the time make 1960s Baltimore the perfect setting for *The Merchant of Venice*.

A lot of directors shy away from shows as controversial as *Merchant*; I have instead confronted these issues head-on. I have not shied away from the racist, questionable dialogue and actions contained in the show, because those were the harsh realities of both Shakespeare's era and 1960's urban America. It's uncomfortable at times, but it's supposed to be. And being in-your-face and confronting difficult subject matter is what the Rude Mechanicals are known for.

Special thanks go to UCP on the Potomac – Lanham, MD, Greenbelt Arts Center – Greenbelt, MD, Ellen Mullen, Phillip Mullen, Paul Lynch Williams, Colleen Pollard, Alan Duda, Josh Engel, Jaki Demerest, Various flu and cold medications

The Merchant of Venice

ACT I

Act 1, Scene 1: Antonio's Office

Act 1, Scene 2: Shylock's Office

Act 1, Scene 3: A street

Act 1, Scene 4: Outside Shylock's house.

Act 1, Scene 5: A street.

Act 1, Scene 6: Outside Shylock's house.

Act 1, Scene 7: Outside Shylock's house.

Act1, Scene 8: Street Diner

ACTII

Act 2, Scene 1: Portia's apartment.

Act 2, Scene 2: Portia's apartment.

Act 2, Scene 3: Portia's apartment.

Act 2, Scene 4: Portia's apartment.

Act 3, Scene 5: Portia's apartment.

INTERMISSION

ACT III

Act 3, Scene 1: Port of Baltimore

Act 3, Scene 2: Port of Baltimore

Act 3, Scene 3: Port of Baltimore

ACT IV

Act 5, Scene 1: Portia's apartment.

About the cast and crew



Elise Berg
(*Salanio/ Prop Manager*)
- A Rude Mechanical since 2001, is proud to be one of Shakespeare's Venticelli in this oft-maligned but rich, intense play. She is grateful to Caitlin, Leanne and Patrick for this chance, and her Baltimore-born & raised parents for instilling a love of this play at a very early age, with its fascinating historical commentary on racism. Love and thanks to Jay for support, patience and Frank Robinson.



Brian Binney
(*Tubal/ Duke*) - is happy to be making his debut with the Rudes (Rudes awakening?) in this wonderful show. He recently appeared at GAC as Bob Zelnick in *Frost/Nixon*, as Charlemagne in *Pippin* and as Volpone in *Volpone*. He also appeared recently as Father in LMP's *Ragtime*, as Mr. Daldry in LMP's *the Vibrator Play*, as Dave Moss in the DC Fringe Festival production of *Glengarry, Glen Ross*, and as Father Jack in LMP's *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Other favorite roles were in LMP's *Company* (Larry), *Godspell* (Jeffrey), *Pirates of Penzance* (Pirate King), and PGLT's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Milt Fields) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (O'Hara). Lots of love to Jeaneo, Kathryn, Chris and Iver.



William Cassidy
(*Shylock*) - A theatre educator for over 25 years, William has served on the faculties of Gardner-Webb University and Miami Dade College and currently teaches at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington. This is William's first appearance with the Rudes and he is truly honored to share the stage with such a talented and dedicated cast. In 2010, William received a WATCH nomination for his performance of R.P. McMurphy in the Silver Spring Stage production of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's nest. Other favorite roles include: A Streetcar Named Desire (Stanley), The Tempest (Prospero), Doubt (Father Flynn), Amadeus (Salieri) and the title roles in The Elephant Man, Macbeth and Richard III. In 2002, William toured theatres in North Carolina and Illinois in the one-person show, Bully!, playing Theodore Roosevelt.



Jacqueline Chenault
(*Jessica*) - This is Jacqueline's second time onstage with the Rudes – and this time she gets to keep her limbs! And her tongue! Previous spottings of this rare creature include Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus* [Rude Mechanicals], Destiny in *Medieval Story Land* [Capitol Fringe/Fall Fringe], Ophelia in *Hamlet*, Cobweb in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, and u/s Astro Boy in *Astro Boy and the God of Comics*

[Studio Theatre 2ndStage]. Jacqueline hails from Washington, DC though 'home' is Seattle, WA and trained at the Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory, George Washington University www.JacquelineChenault.com



**Donald Cook (Producer/
Sound Designer)** – Don is

happy to be making electronic squeaks and make other things squeak throughout this production and proud of all the work his once-Red Fury, Patrick, Leanne, Elise and Katie and all the cast and crew have strived in putting this together. Love ya dear and thanks to Tonks for being a great sound designer companion



Meredith Coyle (Portia) - has previously been seen in the Rudes' production of *Romeo and Juliet* (Mercutio) and in various shades of black. She enjoys late-night singing and dancing in parking lots and scientific calculations that involve letters and symbols.



Leanne Dinverno (Stage Manager) - Leanne first stage managed for the Rudes in 2008's *Julius Caesar*, and has been with the troupe on stage and off ever since. She would like

to thank Caitlin for not making her clean up gallons of blood from the stage every night like she had to do for the last show (but *Titus* was totally worth it), and also for coming up with a

show concept that allows her to gawk at all the men in suits. And thanks to Katie for finding the suits. And to our amazing cast for wearing the suits so well. And Patrick for not getting too mad at her gawking at all the men in suits. Basically, Leanne thanks suits.



Michael J. Dombroski (Gratiano) - teaches

beginning, intermediate and advanced Drama classes at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro, where he started the theatre program and directs (*A Raisin in the Sun*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Wizard of Oz*, Improv Comedy Shows). Michael has been seen in past Rudes' productions of *Pericles* (Pericles), *Titus Andronicus* (Lucius), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander), *Trojan Women 2.0* (Menelaus), *King Lear* (Edgar), *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo) and *Julius Caesar* (Marc Antony).



Joel Lorenzetti

(Launcelot) - Virgin birth, choir of angels, yadda yadda yadda. To Caitlin, Patrick, Leanne, and Donald, who took a chance on someone who had absolutely no acting experience whatsoever, I would like to say, "SUCKERS!"



Brandon William Love (Morocco) - Brandon is

currently a part of Howard Community College's theater performance program. He first discovered his passion for

acting at an early age in life. He is excited to get back on the stage after taking a break from pursuing his craft. Brandon would like to thank The Rude Mechanicals and Erin for this wonderful opportunity, and a special thanks to his grandmother and mother for always supporting him in everything he does.



Erin MacDonald
(*Nerissa*) - Had been Rude for almost 11 years now. She played Mephestipolies in *Faust*, Kate in *Taming of the Shrew* and has directed *Romeo and Juliet*. She is thrilled to be in this cast and to be part of Caitlin's directorial debut. She is happy to have a great Portia in Meredith and is happy to have her as her fake and real BFF. Thanks to her family and friends and Blessed Be!



Kyle McGruther
(*Lorenzo*) - Immediately following his GAC debut as David Frost in *Frost/Nixon*, Kyle is pleased to be back and having fun in his sophomore show with The Rude Mechanicals. Despite playing Aaron in The Rudes' spring performance of *Titus Andronicus*, and (perhaps because of) appearing as "Daniel" in the RSC's *Compleat Works [Abridged]* (July 2011; NMP Theatre, Japan), officially Kyle remains "unconvinced" about Shakespeare. The talented, creative cast and crew of *Merbant*, however, have won him over somewhat. In 2013, Kyle intends to kick-start his meteoric rise to professional acting fame. Follow him

online to see if he falls flat on his face(book.com/kmcgruther/)!



B. Harrington Moors
(*Antonio*) - is a veteran of Rudes productions with past performances as Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, Dog in *Macbeth*, and most recently Titus in *Titus*

Andronicus. He would like to thank his cast mates and the production team for their passion and drive, and of course all of you for coming. Enjoy the show.



Patrick Mullen
(*Assistant Director, Set & Light Designer*) - Patrick

Mullen has recently shifted his focus from performance to production. Previously he has done set and lighting design for *Julius Caesar*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *The Winters Tale*, and *Titus Andronicus*, all with the Rude Mechanicals. Merchant represents his first opportunity to design a show in residence, and he has taken the opportunity to play with creating a sense of verisimilitude throughout the space. Remember, "This is Baltimore gentleman, the gods will not save you."



Joe Roberts
(*Arragon*) - I am Joe. I work hard for the monies...so hard for it honeys. I get what I deserve! Please to watch my play as I strut to and fro

upon this stage to fill you with the excitements of never before seen dreams of lavish wonderments. Some may venture to say that I tend toward

overconfidence. well you know what I say to those people? I say to them, go tell your mother I'm over confident, and see what she has to say in response. that's what I say to them. HA!



Devon Tully

(Bassanio) – This is Devon's first show with the Rude Mechanicals and he is thrilled to be performing with them. He was most recently seen as Barney in

The Growing Stage's production of The Codebreaker.



Katie Wanschura
**(Gobbo/Stephana/
Costumer)**

- has performed locally with a variety theatre companies, including the Rudes. Some of her favorite local roles include: Woman,

Veronica's Room, Rudes' Second Stage; Cordelia, *Falsettos*, Elden Street Players; Edmund, *King Lear*, Rudes; Proteus, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Rudes; Annelle, *Steel Magnolias*, St. Mark's Players; and Don Pedro/Benedick (u/s), *Much Ado About Nothing*, Rudes. Katie also "earned her keep" in college stitching away in the basement costume shop so she thanks the production team for letting her do most of her sewing above ground this time. Thank you to my friends and family for supporting the show, and to Shannon for always being there for me and for allowing the costumes to engulf our guest room



Caitlin Clare Williams

(Director) – This show says more about me than anything I could possibly write in a few short

sentences. As an actor, I have learned to appreciate

what a director does and feels for their creation. As a director, I have learned how much the actors can not only help bring a vision into fruition but take it to places you never dreamed before. I want to thank my cast and crew for bringing my dream to life. Especially thanks to Patrick and Leanne who were the legs of this operation. And to the love of my life Don, who is the Rory to my Amy. Lastly, To my Father who has always believed in me and encouraged me. I love you.



Gary Wynn

(Salerio) - This is Gary's second production with the Rude Mechanicals and he's thrilled to be part of another great show. Most recently Gary played the

Spartan Ambassador in the Rude Mechanicals' production of *Lysistrata* as well as *Roderigo* in Cedar Lane's production of *Othello*. Gary would like to thank the Rude Mechanicals for the opportunity to continue being involved in good community theater and his wife and daughter for being tolerant of all the hours spent at rehearsal and performances.



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NEXT FROM THE RUDE MECHANICALS

Twelfth Night

Directed by Maureen Shanahan. May 2013

Howard County Center for the Arts

Auditions for *Twelfth Night*

by William Shakespeare

Feb 4th & 5th, 2013, 8pm - 10pm

Callbacks: February 7th, 2013, 8pm - ???

at UCP on the Potomac

Monologues appreciated. Sides available. *Optional:* 16 bars of a well-known 80s song, a capella or bring an mp3 player with karaoke track.

Please email: maureenanneshanahan@gmail.com with ideal audition time request.

Sides will be provided. Dress for light dancing/movement. *Optional:* Be ready with that song again.

Performances in May 2013 at the Howard County Arts Center.

The Doctor In Spite of Himself

Directed by Jaki Demarest. 8/16-31, 2013,

Greenbelt Arts Center

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